

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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Officials angry about continued injection well fight

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

City officials in Romulus were disappointed to learn that Birmingham-based Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS) will have the opportunity to re-introduce a request to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for a permit to operate a deep injection well in the city.

Two cities – Romulus and Taylor – have spent more than \$1 million to fight the project, which would store hazardous and toxic waste in a layered well in the ground, said Mayor Alan Lambert. He was informed last week of the company decision to re-file the permit request.

“Frankly, I don’t understand why they want to continue to pursue this,” he said. “But I don’t think it will make any money for them, and I also don’t think there’s the kind of market for this technology like there was when this started. There are cheaper, easier ways to do this that are less harmful (to residents). It’s a problem for us and the rest of the region.”

The fight between the cities and EDS has been going

on for 14 years.

The EDS proposal calls for the construction of two wells at the intersection of I-94 near Inkster Road, Lambert said. The wells would hold sludge from elsewhere in the United States and Canada, and toxic waste. Lambert said residents have never been assured that the waste could not leak and cause contamination problems.

Patricia Spitzley, a spokesperson for the MDEQ confirmed that EDS withdrew their petition after some safety concerns were uncovered about the construction of the wells. Councilwoman Debbie Romak, the founder of RECAP (Romulus Environmentalists Concerned About People), said she is not surprised the group re-filed their application.

“We all knew this would happen. It’s not like we thought they were going to go away,” she said. “But this is not a good project for us. If it were, communities like Northville, Birmingham, and Bloomfield Hills would want one. Let’s face it – they are going to solicit waste from every state and country they can. And they’re going to put it underground in Romulus.”

The possibility of the MDEQ granting the permit comes along at a precarious time for the city, said Romak,

who is campaigning for mayor. The city is in the middle of a building renaissance – new home developments and industrial facilities are under construction, and a casino at Vining Road is planned.

“I think it’s definitely going to affect development,” Romak said. “The first time there’s an evacuation, it will be all over the media, and I think developers will ask themselves if they want to locate here, and the answer will be no. We’ll also lose money because our first responders will have to address these problems.”

Deep wells are constructed thousands of feet underground, where waste can be absorbed and sealed off from waterways and ground soil for thousands of years, according to the EDS web site. Because they are so far beneath the surface, the waste is isolated from people living in communities near the well.

Officials from EDS have consistently reiterated that injection well technology is a viable way to dispose of waste, and officials from the U.S Department of Environmental Quality concurred, calling the technology “a proven way of safe disposal.”

Representatives from EDS did not return calls seeking comment.

4 to run for school board seats

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Two incumbents and two challengers filed petitions, or paid a filing fee to seek two open seats on the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education.

Board President Cheryle Buckley, board member April Frayer, and challengers Leo Knasiak and Tony Heimberger all threw in their hats for the seats by the filing deadline on Tuesday. Buckley and Frayer turned in petitions, and Knasiak and Heimberger paid a \$100 filing fee to ensure a spot on the ballot, said City Clerk Linda Choate.

The candidates are seeking a four-year term on the seven-member board, said Choate.

Knasiak, 60, a familiar face at city council and school board meetings, said he’s seeking office because he wants to make sure tax dollars are being used wisely by school officials.

“I’ve been involved in the city a long time, and there just no way that we can’t re-align the millage rate in this community,” he said. “Some of the school administrators are way out of whack for this community. Teachers are extremely well paid; we have a lot of great things here. And with the economic development going on around the city, there’s no way

See **Election**, page 3



Just desserts

For developing outstanding culinary training programs at Romulus High School, teacher Charles Usztics was named the 2005 “Educator of the Year” by Food Service Educators Network International, a trade organization for culinary arts teachers. He will receive a \$1,000 award at the national conference at the Astor Crowne Plaza in New Orleans and a \$500 travel allowance. Usztics and his assistant, Angelica Richardson, serve daily breakfasts and lunches to high school students and cater special events such as the annual business luncheons and award presentations throughout the city. He was also recognized for excellence in ice sculpture at the Plymouth Ice Spectacular and the Henry Ford Community Arts culinary competitions. According to Life Skills Instructor Phyllis Wilkerson, Usztics’ students have gone on to apply their skills at some of the best area restaurants and hotels.

Police department to purchase new K-9 dogs

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The Romulus Police Department will expand by two members, but the new recruits will be of the four-legged variety.

City council members approved the purchase of two K9 dogs so the department can have one dog per shift to respond to

traffic calls, search warrants, and other cases where K9s are typically utilized, said Police Chief Charles Kirby.

“It’s best to have three because we don’t have to call someone in the middle of the night to use the dog,” said Kirby. “This will be the first time we’ve had three.”

One of the dogs will replace

Smoky, a long-time K9 officer who died last summer, said Kirby.

Funds for the two dogs, associated training costs and related equipment will come from the department drug forfeiture fund, which can be spent on any activity related to drug enforcement.

See **Dog**, page 3

Council OKs 93-home subdivision

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The developer hoping to build 93 single-family homes on a parcel of land near Tyler and Cogswell roads cleared a final hurdle Monday night when Romulus City Council members gave the go-ahead for the project.

Elro Corp. of Troy will build the single-family homes on a vacant, 44-acre parcel of land later this year. The homes will be situated on 9,600-square-foot lots. Tim Keyes, the city economic developer, said the homes are a part of a city-wide strategy to revitalize the aging housing stock – and bring more residents to the city.

“(The number of) rooftops are critical to the city. Most major retail developers look at the number of rooftops in order to place a business there whether it’s a coffee house, restaurant or grocery store,” he said. “It’s a plus for the city and the schools. The city gets more property taxes, and the schools get more students, which means more money from the state.”

The project, known as Legacy Park, should be under construction by this fall, said Elro vice-president and developer Jesse Kranz.

“We haven’t gone through the process of selecting buildings

See **Homes**, page 3

Local legislator to lead state transportation committee

John Counts
Staff Writer

State Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton), who was elected to his second term in the Michigan House, was recently appointed to head the committee dealing with traffic and roads in the state.

LaJoy will chair the House Transportation Committee as well as serve on the committees for Employment Relations, Training and Safety, Natural Resources: Great Lakes, Land Use and the Environment and the Energy and Technology Committee.

"These committee assignments will give me the opportunity to continue work-

ing on some of the issues I started on last session as well as expand into some other areas of interest," he said.

LaJoy—who represents the 21st District covering Belleville, Van Buren Township and Canton Township—said as the chair of the transportation committee, he will deal with a growing problem in the area: roads and traffic.

He said Van Buren Township is developing rapidly, and traffic is becoming an issue there, particularly with the new Visteon Village opening last summer.

"We need to start planning for that area, as well," he said. "We have to build roads where people are going to be."

That's not the only area of concern for

LaJoy, though. While he said the issue is a statewide problem, it also hits close to home—specifically on the Ford Road corridor.

"Canton has had problems there for a long time. We've had a lot of growth which has led to severe congestion," he said.

IKEA, the Swedish furniture store planned to open on Ford and Haggerty roads in the spring of 2006, is going to compound the problem, according to LaJoy.

He hopes to achieve these goals on the committee by working with the Michigan Department of Transportation that is conducting several studies in the area. He

said he would also like to implement some of the ideas from the Ford Road Access Management study completed by the Corradino Group last year.

"We must ensure roads are properly maintained for the safety and security of all Michigan motorists," he said.

"We're going to have to find ways to get people off I-275," LaJoy added.

He said he is also excited to continue his work on the land use committee, of which he served as vice-chair during the 2003-2004 legislative season.

"We must make sure we are acting as good stewards of the environment.

Band continues 'uniform' effort

Members of the Belleville High School marching band continue to plan fundraisers to pay for new uniforms before the start of the 2005-2006 school year.

According to Sandy Tinsley, band booster president, the adopt-a-uniform program will be the first major fundraiser for the group.

As part of the fundraiser, any individual, family, or business that adopts-a-uniform by making a \$300 donation, will receive a plaque with their name engraved on it which will be displayed at Belleville High School. They will also have their name sewn inside a uniform.

The Band Boosters will also host a spaghetti dinner from 5-8 p.m. on Feb. 12 at the Belleville Moose Lodge, 831 E.

Huron River Dr. Tickets are \$6 and will include food and live entertainment from the high school jazz band. A second event will take place April 23 at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce auction.

Tinsley said that they hope to generate \$100,000 to purchase 300 uniforms for the 250 student marching band.

Donations can be made payable to Belleville Band Boosters and mailed to: Michael Van Tassel, Belleville High School, 501 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI, 48111.

For more information about the adopt-a-uniform fundraiser, or to contribute, call Tinsley at 734-699-0722, or Mary Rickard, band booster vice-president, at 734-485-1891.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 1, 2005

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Herman, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Champagne, Deputy Public Safety Director Smolen, Recreation and Facilities Deputy Director Averill, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of five (5).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Herman seconded to approve the agenda with the following amendment: remove New Business Item #7 "Consider attorney's recommendation regarding pending litigation in case # 03-340558-CH." Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of January 10, 2005 as presented. Carried.

Herman moved, Budd seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2005 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve [an increase of \$8 per hour effective January 1, 2005 and holding at that rate through 2006 setting the hourly rate for the general Township at \$128 per hour and the rate for litigation at \$148 per hour] the Township attorney fee schedule. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2005-04 supporting the Wayne County Division of Public Works plan to establish the Ayres Drainage Assessment for the purpose of maintaining and/or improving a portion of the Ayres Drain in Section 6 of the Township. Carried.

Herman moved, Jahr seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 02-01-05 to amend the Township Zoning Map, a part of Ordinance, 6-2-92, as amended to rezone parcels of land V125-83-059-01-0020-000, V125-83-059-01-0021-000, V125-83-059-01-0022-000 and V125-83-059-0023-000 from R-1B Single Family Residential to C-1 General Business. Carried.

*(A copy of the Ordinance 02-01-05 follows the minutes. Copies may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

Payne moved, Hart seconded to approve "opting in" for the purpose of conducting school elections for both the Van Buren Public School District and Lincoln Consolidated School District. Carried.

Hart moved, Jahr seconded to approve awarding the refurbishment contract of the Fire Department's Engine 411 (1990 Pierce Lance) to the Pierce Midwest Regional Refurbishment Center at a cost not to exceed \$117,814 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

Payne moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the contract with Environmental Engineers, Inc., to provide specific land surveying and civil engineering information in the design development of the proposed fire station facility in the amount not to exceed \$4,500. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the February 1, 2005 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the December 2004 Public Safety Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor King announced township employees have new Township Identification Badges.

On February 22, 2005 Lincoln Consolidated Schools will have an election in conjunction with Washtenaw County. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Van Buren Township residents living in Lincoln Consolidated School District will vote one last time in their old school precinct at Bessie Hoffman School. Absentee ballots are available in the Clerk's Office for additional information contact the Clerk's Office at 734.699.8909.

The Belleville High School Soccer Team will be hosting fundraiser steak dinners at the Belleville Moose Lodge every Thursday during the month of February from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, February 8th the Belleville Rotary will be hosting an Italian Buffet from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Eagles Hall on Beck Road.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): A resident inquired about the status of street lighting for Juniper Drive. Director Kelley stated he has been in communication with DTE Energy and expects street lighting plans from DTE Energy by February 11, 2005.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Payne seconded to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Publish: February 10, 2005

New building will enhance industrial activities, officials say

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A new industrial building could take shape by the end of the year, now that Romulus City Council members have approved a request to build a facility on Hildebrandt Road.

The request was filed by First Industrial, a Chicago-based real estate investment trust that owns more than one million square feet of industrial space in the United States. The company owns several other buildings in Romulus, including an industrial park located on Ecorse and Middlebelt roads.

Approval of the project was contingent on a special land use permit because the nature of the facility would bring large trucks into the facility on a regular basis, according to paperwork filed by the city.

First Industrial will build a 303,180

square-foot storage facility with 107 truck doors to accommodate local manufacturers who are looking for additional space to house finished products or materials. There are already three buildings in the city that will house products, but that might not be enough, said Tim Keyes, economic developer for the City of Romulus.

"We think this is a good thing to have if some of the manufacturers in this city

We think this is a good thing to have if some of the manufacturers in this city expand. We have a lot of light manufacturing, and they will need this space down the line.

Mayor Alan Lambert

expand," he said. "We have a lot of light manufacturing, and they will need this space down the line."

The loss of manufacturers in Michigan doesn't concern officials when it comes to approving the plan for this facility, said Mayor Alan Lambert.

"You just can't look at it like that," he said. "You can't constantly look at things in terms of what might happen. We think this space will be utilized in our commu-

nity fairly soon. We're an industrial city and the more we can capitalize on that, the better."

Chris McGrath, the project manager with First Industrial, was out of town and could not be reached for comment Tuesday. Keyes said that the building has not secured tenants as of yet, but that the storage facility would likely serve the manufacturers housed at the Ecorse complex, which is also owned by First Industrial.

The building will be near the two Aeroplex buildings, which offer the same storage services as the new facility, said Keyes. First Industrial plans to serve one to eight tenants at the new facility. There will be about 30 to 180 employees on site, depending on how many tenants are secured. Trucks could enter and exit the facility from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., according to city records.



Welcome recognition

Jim Napiorkowski, the president of the Romulus Chamber of Commerce, recently presented Mayor Alan R. Lambert with a certificate of appreciation at his annual State of the City address at the Best Western Gateway International Hotel. The certificate was given to Lambert in recognition of his efforts to attract new development and businesses to the community. Currently, there are two industrial and eight residential building projects under way in Romulus.

Homes - Project is part of subdivision building boom

FROM PAGE 1

yet, but we're confident that this is going to be a good development (for the city)," he said. "We've been in Romulus a long time; we think there's a market there. It's an up and coming community."

Kranz added that the market in enhanced by accessibility to other areas via I-275 and I-94.

Though plans have not been finalized, Kranz said the subdivision will be made up of both colonials and ranch homes. He said he expects the homes will be priced in the \$200,000 range.

A 9-acre nature area for residents is included in the approved plan, according to city records.

Legacy Park is the fourth sub-

We've been in Romulus a long time; we think there's a market there.

Jess Kranz

Park will sit, and Avalon Meadows, a 178-home subdivision at Wayne and Ecorse roads are Elro developments.

Mayor Alan Lambert said getting the number of homes up in the city has been a priority.

"We went to businesses for years - especially restaurants - and we were told we needed more homes for them to consider us," he said. "We just don't have that kind of business here, and we think we'll be able to get them now."

Keyes said there are 800 homes in about nine subdivisions currently under construction in the city. There are currently other homes in the planning stages that could bring that total up to about 1,000 new homes, he said.

Election - Scores count

FROM PAGE 1

we can't get that done."

He also said the schools recent test scores are good, but could still go up.

"I think there's always room for improvement," he said. "I think it's always a crutch for school board members who talk about the kids not meeting state standards, but I think we also need to make sure we get the most out of our teachers."

Knasiak is a retired from Ford Motor Co., where he worked as a financial analyst.

Messages left for Buckley were not immediately returned. Attempts to reach Frayer and Heimberger were unsuccessful. Both Frayer and Buckley have served one term as a school board member.

It is possible that the field of

candidates will expand if write-in candidates enter the race. Anyone who wishes to seek a school board seat will now have to do so as a write-in candidate, Choate said. The deadline to file a declaration of intent to seek election for a school board seat must be received by the city clerk's office at city hall by 4 p.m. on April 29.

This is the first time the school election will be in May. Last year, the Michigan Legislature overwhelmingly approved a series of bills that would consoli-

date elections to only four times a year. The laws also consolidated elections under the city clerk, removing school administrations from the process. Voters will cast ballots at precincts throughout the community in which they reside. The election will be May 3.

Some of the school administrators are way out of whack for this community.

Leo Knasiak

Dogs - K9 units will be on every shift

FROM PAGE 1

At least one officer will undergo intensive training at the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms K9 training facility in Wayne for several weeks. The cost of the dogs will be \$15,300.

Kirby said having the dogs on the force assists their human counterparts in several ways - especially since their sense of smell can detect things that humans cannot, and locate things humans can't see - and for which officers might not be able to search.

"The dogs and officers are not taken out of rotation, so they are

on the road," he said. "They can be used as probable cause to arrest people (when they detect an illegal substance). Their sense of smell is superior to ours - their abilities begin where we are limited."

The new dogs will hit the streets sometime after they begin training in March. The dogs will be on the job for one day a week during the final phase of their training, according to Kirby. In the beginning, two of the dogs will be scheduled on the afternoon shift, when most drug activity occurs. The other will work the overnight shift.

Clarification

The story "Parents ponder school funding," (*The Romulus Roman*, Feb. 3) erroneously stated that the Tri-County Alliance for Education was seeking to

raise school funding by 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is more. Actually, the group would choose the lesser of the two formulas.

Winter story time now under way at Belleville library

The Fred C. Fischer Library in Belleville has already begun winter story time program, but there is still plenty of time to participate.

For preschool children ages 3-6 years, the program will take place at 7 p.m. every Monday through Feb. 21. It will also take place at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Feb. 22. Parents are welcome to attend a craft activity after the stories.

For toddlers ages 2 to 3 years, the program will take place at 10:30 and again at

11:15 a.m. every Wednesday through Feb. 23.

The library will also host a series of workshops-the Mastodons and the Ice Age- from 3-4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb 26 and March 26.

To participate, residents should obtain a reading record at the library circulation desk and write down the number of hours their family is reading together during the three months.

In order to count the time-spent read-

ing, at least two members of the family should be reading together. Once the family reaches 15 total hours, submit the reading record to the library and each participating member can choose a free book.

A workshop-Lost Giants of the Ice Age-

will take place from 3-4 p.m. on Feb. 26.

Another workshop-Where Did the Mastodons Go- will take place from 3-4 p.m. on March 26.

For more information about any of the library happenings, call Kelly Skinner at 734-699-3291.

BOARD OF REVIEW - CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN FOR 2005 ASSESSMENTS

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, on the following dates:

March 8, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

March 14, Monday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 15, Tuesday
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To review property assessments for 2005. Taxpayers/property owners may file an appeal of assessment(s) to the Board of Review in **WRITING** without personal appearance. **Letters of appeal must be received on or before March 16, 2005.**

Those taxpayers wishing to **appeal in person, please call the Township by March 14, 2005** at 734.699.8946 to set an **APPOINTMENT** to meet with the Board of Review on any of the above dates.

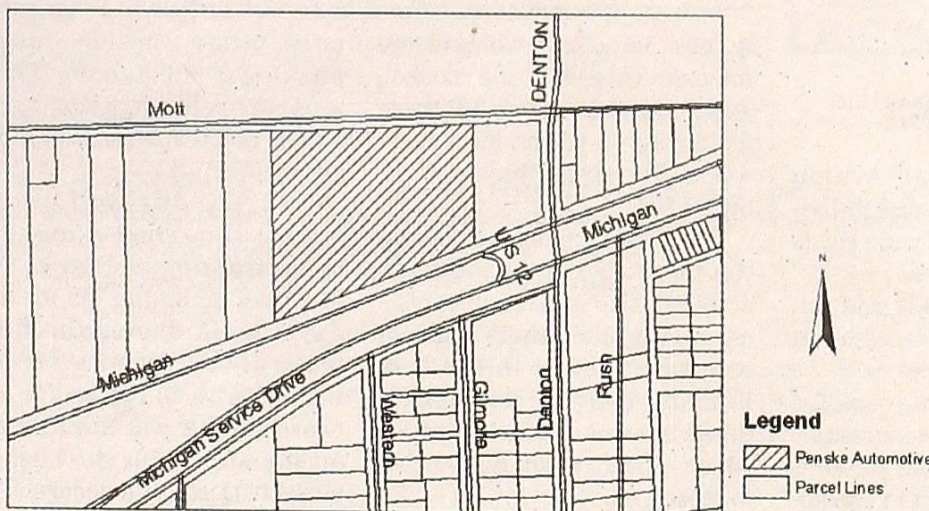
Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: February 10, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday March 9, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, by rezoning parcel number V-125-83-013-99-0011-000. This property is located on the west side of Belleville Road between Michigan Ave and Van Born Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.

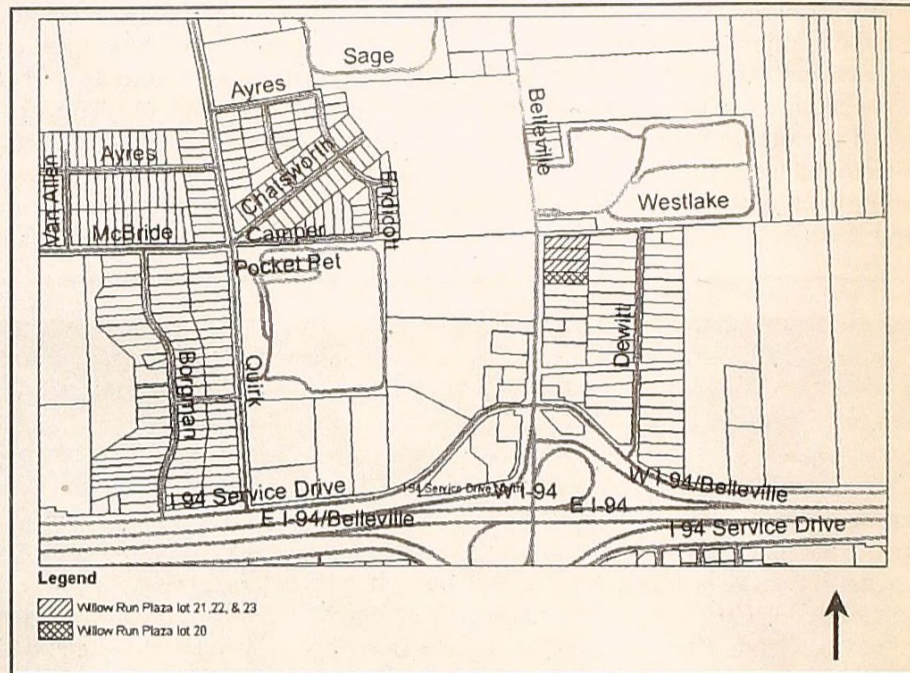


The applicant is requesting to rezone from M-1 Light Industrial District to M-2 General Industrial District. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., December 8, 2004, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: February 10, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDINANCE 02-01-05 PROPOSED REZONING MAP



First Reading of Ordinance 02-01-05, Second reading for adoption will be held at the 7:30 p.m. regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, 02-15-05 to be held in the Board Room, in the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE 6-6-92, AS AMENDED, OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDAINS:

Section 1. The Zoning Map in connection with the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Van Buren shall be amended so that the zoning of the following described property to wit:

Ordinance Number 02-01-05

To rezone parcel number(s): Parcel number Parcel number V125-83-059-01-0020-000 known as lot 20, V125-83-059-01-0021-000 known as lot 21, V125-83-059-01-002-000 known as lot 22 and V-125-83-059-01-0023-000 known as lot 23 from R-1C Single Family Residential to C-1 General Business.

Legal Description of Property:

Parcel number V125-83-059-01-0020-000 known as lot 20, V125-83-059-01-0021-000 known as lot 21, V125-83-059-01-002-000 known as lot 22 and V-125-83-059-01-0023-000 known as lot 23 located on the east side of Belleville Road between Tyler Road and Interstate 94 North Service Drive.

Section 2. All Ordinances and parts of Ordinance in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and publication.

Section 4. This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2005.

Yeas: King, Payne, Budd, Hart, Herman, Jahr and Rochowiak.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within ten (10) days after its passage.

I hereby certify that Ordinance 02-01-05 was published in the Belleville Enterprise, a newspaper circulating within the Charter Township of Van Buren.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Publish: February 10, 2005

‘Little Leaders’ promotes faith for pre-schoolers

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Brad Silvius from Belleville had a little vision that has turned into a big project and production company: The Little Leaders.

The Bible-based grassroots company has just released their second video, *Little Joseph*, which presents educational faith based stories for children.

Little Joseph is a developmental video for children to 3 years old. Unlike other children’s videos on the market, *Little Joseph* is based on the biblical account of Joseph. It tells about his coat of many colors and about his trip to Egypt where he eventually saves his family from famine, according to Silvius.

In the video reproduction of the stories, Silvius takes the combination of animation, music, puppets and “the word of God” to create the children’s videos.

The Little Leaders first video, *Little Noah*, is based on the Biblical account of Noah, the ark, the flood and the rainbow.

“The videos get across the lesson in faith, plus, it teaches children motor skills, verbal skills, and shows them how to associate colors with objects,” said Silvius. “It teaches a lot of different things.”

More than 30-minutes long, *Little Joseph* takes children on a trip with Cara Camel—the puppet tour guide—Tibo Tiger and JoJo Giraffe, as they tell the story of Joseph. Children can also enjoy the video sound-track, which is a stimulating mixture of musical instruments, traditional Bible

songs sung by children and original music written by the Little Leaders Co., according to Silvius.

Little Joseph is available in five languages—French, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Japanese.

“We feel it is important to expose our children to a variety of spoken languages,” said Raquel De Paul, producer for the Little Leaders. “It is during these early months and years that the child’s brain is like a sponge, soaking up and differentiating between a wide array of sounds. We wanted to capture this in *Little Joseph*.”

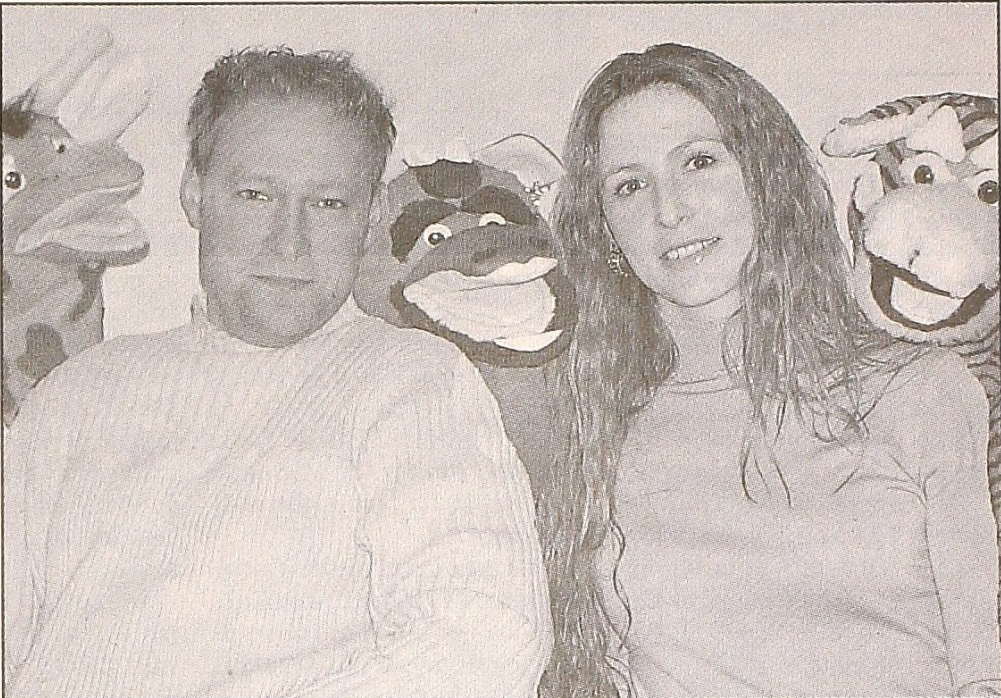
As a bonus to the video, Silvius said that they added a revolutionary feature never done before in these types of educational features—sign language.

“Studies show that the motor skills are formed much faster than the vocal chords,” he said. “We decided to really focus on this by offering a track video in American Sign Language. We feel this is our way of taking the developmental power of DVD to the next level.”

And according to Silvius, the Little Leaders series is getting a huge reaction.

“Kids are captivated by it and parents are happy to have finally found that something like this exists,” he said. “Many of the parents tell me it’s a relief to find something that is a good solid Bible story that teaches these principles in the quality that we do.”

Silvius added that the category five award for family approval from the Dove Foundation that the *Little Noah* video



Little Leaders founder Brad Silvius and producer Raquel DePaula hang out with JoJo Giraffe, Tibo Tiger and Cara Camel, who are all featured in their faith-based videos.

received is an affirmation that they are doing something right. Silvius said that fans can expect a new CD called *Big Songs for Little Leaders*, more videos such as *Little Ruth* and *Little Moses*, books and puzzles in the future.

NOTICE CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC HEARING - DEMOLITION 04-02

Notice is hereby given that the Romulus City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 28, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time, in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485, for the purpose of hearing objections to demolition and/or removal of debris on the herein described properties:

- 11132 Delano (Garage)** 20A33 34 BL3 LOTS 33 and 34 BLOCK 3 THE JUNCTION SUB BLOCK 3 T3SR9E L17 P34 WCR
- 36723 Goddard (Garage)** 20B270 LOT 270 SUPERVISORS ROMULUS PLAT NO 11 T3S R9E L68 P49 WCR P70-76 WCR
- 29333 Hildebrandt (Commercial Building)** 13B22 TO 24 LOTS 22 TO 24 INCL ALSO N 1/2 ADJ VAC ALLEY ALSO E 1/2 VAC ALLEY ADJ TO LOT 24 OSBERGS AIRPORT ESTATES SUB T3S R9E L64 P35 WCR
- 28275 Smith (Residential Structure)** 12DD1 THAT PART OF THE NW 1 / 4 OF THE SE 1/4 OF SEC 12 DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE E AND W 1/4 LINE OF SAID SECTION DISTANT EAST 512.60 FT FROM THE CENTER 1/4 CORNER OF SEC 12 AND PROCEEDING TH EAST ALONG SAID LINE 380.0 FT TO THE NLY LINE OF THE DETROIT INDUSTRIAL EXPRESSWAY TH S WLY ALONG SAID LINE 410.0 FT TH NORTH 160.0 FT TO THE POB 0.70 ACRE
- 28301 Smith (Residential Structure and Garage)** 12CC1 THAT PART OF THE NW 1 / 4 OF THE SE 1 / 4 OF SEC 12 DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE E AND W 1 / 4 LINE OF SAID SECTION DISTANT EAST 341.75 FT FROM THE CENTER 1/4 CORNER OF SEC 12 AND PROCEEDING TH EAST ALONG SAID LINE 170.85 FT TH SOUTH 160.0 FT TH S 72D 09M W 175.5 FT TH NORTH 215.0 FT TO THE POB 0.73 ACRE
- 29807 Smith (Residential Structure)** 11 C1728 LOT 1728 ECORSE CITY COMMUNITY SUB NO 2 T3 S R9E L69 P41 WCR
- 5876 Wayne Road (Conversed accessory Structure)** 05A76 LOT 76 SUPERVISOR’S ROMULUS PLATNO 6 T3S R9E L68 P48 WCR
- 29505 Ecorse (Commercial Building)** 11A63 64 LOTS 63 AND 64 ALSO N 1 / 2 ADJ VAC ALLEY ECORSE CITY COMMUNITY SUB T3S R9E L 56 P 39 40 WCR
- 6416 Wayne Road (Commercial Building)** 05E1 2 3 LOTS 1,2 AND 3 JOE LOUIS BROOKS SUB T3S R9E L70 P54 WCR

Linda R. Choate,
Clerk City

Publish: February 10, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF SPECIAL LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS DISTRICT ELECTION FEBRUARY 22, 2005

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653 (a), notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the Charter Township of Van Buren that a Special Lincoln Consolidated Schools District Election will be held TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2005. Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST. Polling place locations for Van Buren Township:

Precinct #2 - Bessie Hoffman 50700 Willow Road Sumpter Township, MI 48111

Ballot Language:
Lincoln Consolidated Schools Proposal
Shall Lincoln Consolidated Schools, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Ninety-Five Million Dollars (\$95,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, for the purpose of:
Erecting, furnishing and equipping a new high school; partially remodeling, refurbishing and re-equipping existing school facilities; acquiring and installing education technology; developing and equipping outdoor physical education and athletic field and facilities, playfields and playgrounds; acquiring land for site purposes; and developing and improving sites?

The County Treasurer’s Statement:
I, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan do hereby certify that, as of January 24, 2005 the total of all voted increases in excess of the of the Constitutional fifteen mill tax rate limitation and the years such increases are effective are as follows affection the taxable property of Local Unit:

LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS			
For that portion lying in Van Buren Township Wayne County Michigan			
Local Unit	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Increases Effective
County of Wayne	August 8, 2000	1 mill	2005 thru 2009
Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency	August 6, 1974 November 8, 1988	1 mill 1 mill	2005 Indefinitely 2005 Indefinitely
Wayne County Jail	August 6, 2002	1.5 mills	2005 Indefinitely
Wayne County Parks	August 6, 2002	1 mill	2005 thru 2010
Wayne County Community College	August 8, 2000	0.25 mills	2005 thru 2005
Charter Township of Van Buren	November 6, 2001	1.5 mill	2005 thru 2010
		1 mill	Indefinitely
	August 7, 1990	6 mills	1990 thru 2009
	May 6, 2003	3 mill	2003 thru 2007
Lincoln Consolidated School District	June 13, 1994	18 mills	2005 thru 2013

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk’s Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI 48111, 734-699-8909. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the February 22, 2005 Special Lincoln Consolidated Schools Election is Saturday, February 19, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Township Clerk’s Office.

Published in compliance with Section 498 of Michigan Election Law and MCLA 211.203(3) being part of Michigan Property Tax Limitation Act.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: February 10, 2005

Performance planned to aid popular musician

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Music has always been a part of Larry Nozero's life. Now, however, cancer and the aggressive treatments used to control it have silenced the Novi resident's jazz and made him temporarily unable to work. In an attempt to raise money for medical expenses not covered by his insurance, fellow musicians will host a benefit jazz tribute in his honor later this month.

The concert, which will take place at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22, at the Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium in Livonia, will be anchored by the Johnny Trudell Big Band, will feature performances by about 25 area jazz musicians.

Many of the musicians scheduled to perform became involved because they had played alongside Nozero during the years and wanted the opportunity to help him when he needed a hand. Jim Ryan of Northville, for instance, applied for a chance to play in the show as soon as he heard about it from Ray Tini, Nozero's cousin and one of the musicians involved.

Ryan, who had played in a band managed by Nozero for "quite a while," said that for him, not to

"We could have had five times as many musicians. We just couldn't get them all in."

Midge Ellis

perform in the tribute would have been unthinkable.

"He's like family to me," he said. "He's just a fabulous all-around musician, and he taught me a lot."

It's a sentiment Midge Ellis, spokesperson for the Michigan Jazz Festival, Inc., has gotten used to hearing.

"It's amazing to me how many people wanted to play," said Ellis. "We could have had five times as many musicians. We just couldn't get them all in. I've never seen anything like this."

It doesn't really surprise Dennis Tini, another cousin of Nozero's and chair of the Wayne State University Music Department.

"There are a tremendous number of musicians who have performed alongside him over the years, and he earned a high level of respect from all of them," he said.

Tini said that Nozero—who has performed with such bands as Henry Mancini and the Detroit

Symphony Orchestra—has earned name recognition from musicians around the globe. Around here, he is possibly best known for his long-running series of weekend performances at DePalma's in Livonia.

Despite the unexpectedly large number of people interested in participating, Ellis said that such benefits are a staple of the music scene.

"Jazz people do this for jazz people—it happens all of the time," said Ellis. The Michigan Jazz Festival, Inc. is the sponsor of the event. "It's like a big family."

Musicians include: George Benson, Bill Cairo, Chris Collins, Jimmy Cook, Jon Hammer, Dan Jordan, Paul Keller, Ron Kischuk, Terry Lower, Jerry McKenzie, Don Mayberry, Matt Michaels, Ron Mikels, Cliff Monear, Curt Neumann, Gene Parker, Bob Pinterich, Jim Ryan, Tom Saunders, Chuck Shermetaro, Dennis Tini, Ray Tini, Al Winters, Jim Wyse, and Alexander Zonjic. Performers will play singly or in groups for most of the program, and at the end, everyone will join together for big, improvised jam session.

Tickets can be purchased by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Midge Ellis, 20457 Maplewood St., Livonia MI 48152-2022. The tickets are \$20 each, and the check or money order should

be made payable to the Michigan Jazz Festival. All net proceeds will be given directly to Nozero to offset his medical expenses.

The Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium is located at 20155 Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. For more information, contact Ellis at (248) 474-2720 or Louise Greenwald at (734) 421-7374.

Students' hearts aid victims of tsunami

Savage Elementary School students recently completed their fundraiser—The Savage Hearts—for the victims of the South Asia tsunami.

According to principal Nick Maniaci, the students generated about \$565. They sold paper hearts for \$1 every morning through Jan. 31.

"Their hearts go out to these kids and they want to be able to help in some way," said Maniaci. "The children see the pictures and hear the stories of the disaster on the news and they know other children in the world need help. The children of Savage have really been unselfish."

The Belleville students paid \$1, and then had their names printed on individual hearts. Each of the hearts was fastened to a large heart display in the hallway of the school.

Maniaci said that the campaign-sponsored by the Savage

student council was able to surpass its goal in large part because of the outstanding individual effort by Amanda Humpich, a fifth grade student at Savage and president of the student council. She gave \$100 from her savings account and raised \$75 more from family members.

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ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 (R)

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FRI/SAT LS 12:00

IN GOOD COMPANY (PG-13)

1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

FRI/SAT LS 11:50

RACING STRIPES (PG)

(SAT/SUN 11:05) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

FRI/SAT LS 11:00

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LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

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FRI/SAT LS 11:45

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OPINION

No harm intended

Officials in Romulus are planning next week a unique fundraiser to help generate money for – and awareness of – a new needed animal shelter to replace the aging structure on Goddard Road. They're essentially putting on a wedding between two Yorkshire terriers, Sophie and Gizmo, complete with cute little outfits and plenty of photo opportunities. Mayor Alan Lambert will officiate at the ceremony.

Now we know this is supposed to be a cute, tongue-in-cheek event, the kind of relatively harmless thing that people get excited about, not offended.

We should point out, however, that it comes at a time when a large portion of the nation is concerned about the sanctity of marriage – efforts to curtail the ability of same sex human couples to marry have been widely successful in several states, including Michigan.

Granted, this is a mock ceremony, with none of the legal ramifications of a real union. It still makes one wonder if a different type of fundraiser would be less offensive to those impacted by the growing concern and dialogue about the sanctity of marriage being defined as a union between a man and a woman. A pet fashion show, perhaps, or something else like it.

And yes, this may be taking “political correctness” just a bit too far. But the marriage issue is such a lightning rod of controversy today, we simply do not want the city criticized for an innocent attempt to generate funds for a worthy cause.

Again, we know it's supposed to be a fun, light-hearted event. Let's make sure that no one's sensibilities are offended, human or otherwise.

Wisdom of the voters

There has been a lot of discussion during the past few weeks about the recommendation of the Local Officer's Compensation Committee (LOCC) in the City of Westland.

The committee has recommended raises for all elected officials: 3-percent increases for the city council and the city council president, a 3-percent increase for the mayor and bringing the pay for the city clerk in line with those of other city department heads – which amounted to a salary increase of more than \$35,000, annually.

Members of the city council have heard about the recommendation, and the role they should take in it. At their regular meeting Monday night, for example, they were accused of taking ‘the coward's way out’ if they didn't put it on the agenda and vote to accept or reject it.

Some of the concern stemmed from the apparently huge jump in salary for the clerk. The salary was set at \$50,000 two years ago because the position changed from an appointed one to an elected one, and members of the LOCC didn't want to set the salary too high, because whoever won the election would require quite a bit of training. That, and they knew they'd be revisiting the issue this year, anyway.

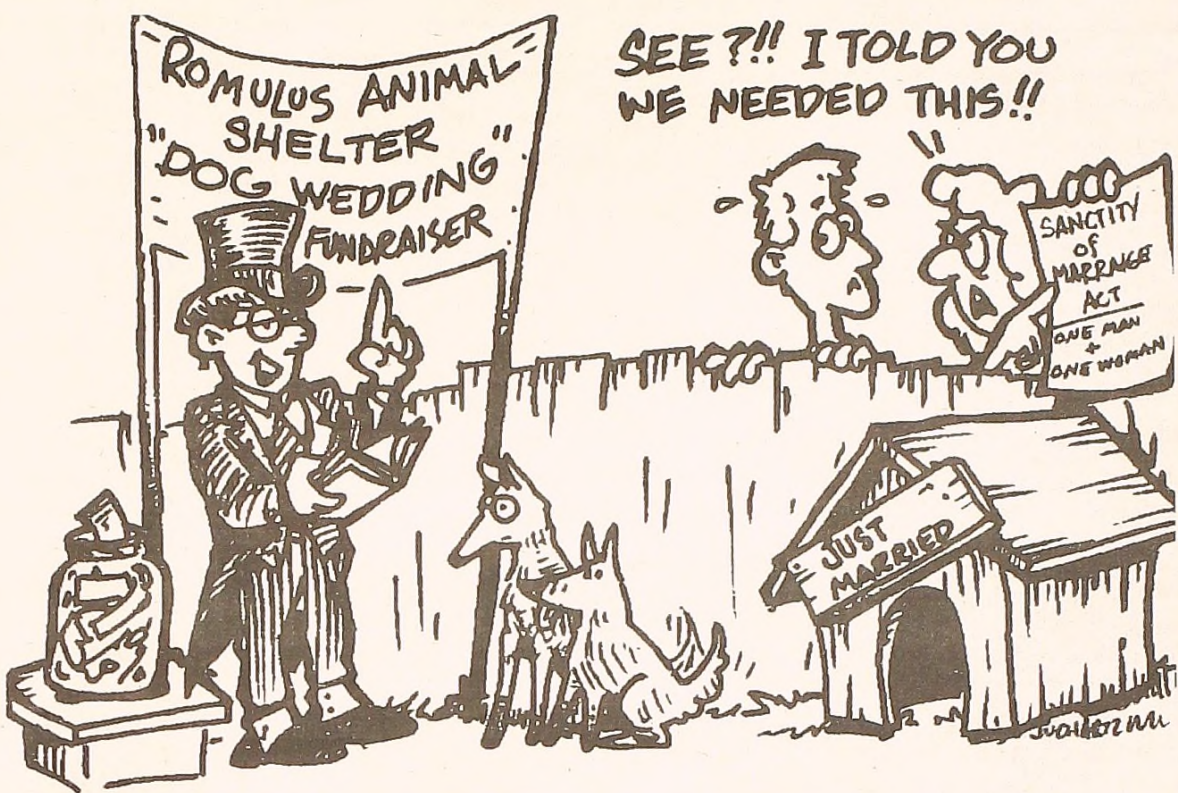
Certainly, a salary increase that large is something that would cause anyone to raise their eyebrows, but in reality the recommendation merely brings the salary for the clerk – which is among the busiest and most important roles in the city – into line with other department heads and other communities.

We've already said that we think the increases are warranted, anyway.

The discussion has brought something else to light, though: that the right person was elected two years ago.

Now, this was a process that was relatively contentious when the city went through it. Some candidates filed to run in the race for clerk, and

See **Raises**, page 8



And campaign season begins

Well, campaign season is pretty much under way in the City of Westland.

It's not the number of candidates who have announced their intention to run for office that heralded it, nor the passing of any particular deadline (although the school board race deadline came and went on Tuesday), but the kind of comments that started during the council meeting Monday night.

Council President Chuck Pickering even issued an early request to try to curtail much of the political rhetoric that goes on during the meetings by requesting that any candidates for office not campaign during the citizen's comments portion of the agenda.

Now, I like and respect Chuck and I admire the way he controls meetings before they get out of hand and the unflappable way he has of dealing with criticism and the kind of unconscionable accusations and brow beating that are too often inflicted on city officials.

But I have to disagree with him on this one, even though a part of me champions the underlying sentiment.

You can't tell people what to

talk about – or what not to talk about – during a portion of a public meeting whose only guideline is for citizen's comment on non-agenda items. It's too fine of a line to draw, too easy to pick apart.

Something similar happened to another guy I happened to like and respect for some of the same reasons. He was, at the time, the mayor of Plymouth and he issued a similar sentiment during a particularly cantankerous election cycle, when candidates were likely to stand up and spew venom and vow how they would change things for the better. Right after that, he congratulated the mayor pro-tem (who was running for reelection) on making it to the meeting, even though she had just returned to town and suffered from jet lag.

The problem is you can't tell newcomers they can't talk about their campaign issues and then turn around and congratulate someone who's also running for their accomplishments.

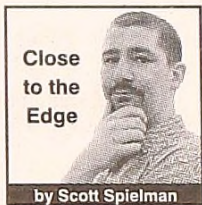
It actually happened Monday night, too, when several people got up to congratulate Mayor Sandra Cicirelli on what she's accomplished, the good job she's

doing, etc. It's a campaign talk too, even if it was unsolicited. And let's face it, incumbents have a chance to talk on every issue when it comes up, as well as at the end of the meeting, too. It can get pretty difficult to distinguish between thoughts on an agenda item, reasons for their particular actions on them and campaign statements, since they are held politically accountable for everything they do.

Like I said, a part of me champions the underlying sentiment – or at least what I believe is the underlying sentiment. I, too, get tired of the political rhetoric that takes place during campaign season. I recognize it for what it is, and sometimes groan inwardly when some people get up to speak. In Westland, I most often look to the electronic timer that counts down the five minutes for people to talk. I'm an impatient person, after all, and I like to have a hope of spending some time with my family on meeting nights.

But listening is part of the job.

See **Campaign**, page 8



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Use car seats properly

It wasn't all that long ago when a lot of our young kids freely roamed the car or sat in the front seat while we drove them from place to place.

While more people now recognize how important it is to use child safety seats, we still have some work to do educating folks on the proper use of child safety devices.

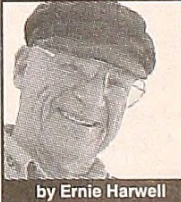
Last year, the U.S. Department of Transportation found that 73 percent of child safety restraints are misused. The most common errors were loose harness straps around the child and loose seatbelts attached to the child restraint.

They also determined that four out of five kids who've outgrown safety seats aren't in booster seats as they should be.

We all want our kids and grandkids to be safe while they're riding in the car. So let's all make a special effort to ensure we're doing everything possible to protect them.

And after you secure your little angel in a car or booster seat, make sure to strap yourself in with a seatbelt. You're setting a good example and, once you make it a habit, you won't even realize you're doing it. Take care of your health before it's lonnnngggg gone.

Ernie Harwell, “the voice of the Detroit Tigers” for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 87, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with “Miss Lulu,” his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled “Life After Baseball,” is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

JOURNAL

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Raises

FROM PAGE 7

Providing the opportunity to speak is part of the responsibility, even if it means giving

Campaign

FROM PAGE 7

others stated an intent to run without filing; at least two candidates backed out of the race in part because of the salary level.

The eventual winner, Eileen DeHart, did not. At the time she said she wanted the job so badly, she'd do it for free. Well, that might have been a bit of an exaggeration, but in the two years since she's taken on the role, she's showed that the salary is not

people a chance to spew out campaign promises.

So regular attendees or meeting watchers would be wise to buckle in for some long meetings.

My only request is to keep it respectful. I can't stand negative campaigning.

that important. She's put in long hours to get herself up to speed, taking on tasks when it must have been tempting to delegate them. All of the comments, by the way, over her performance have been positive, too.

At the time we endorsed her opponent, in part because DeHart has served in several public offices, and we wanted to see some fresh faces on the political scene. She's served so capably, though, that we feel she's justified the confidence Westland voters placed in her.

The increase is a large one. And it's about time she received it.

LETTERS

Dean receives support

To the editor:

In the aftermath of the November elections, the Democratic Party has found itself searching for its soul. With the apparent election of Dr. Howard Dean as chair of the Democratic National Committee on Feb. 12 it seems to have found it. Since his departure from the presidential race last year,

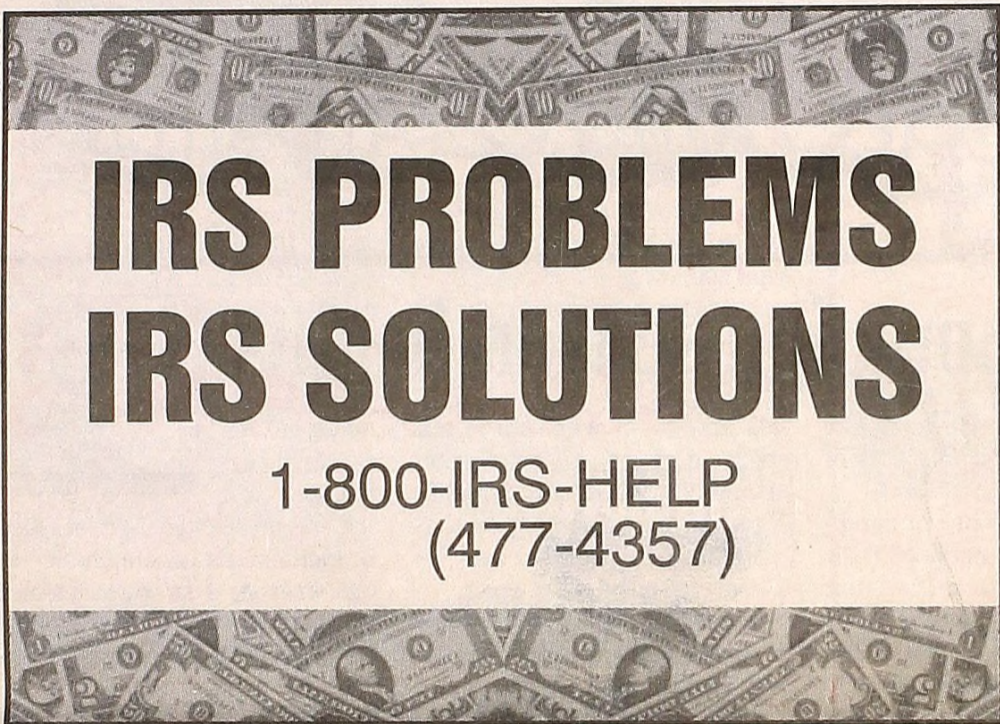
Dean has worked hard to support all the party candidates. He has raised money and energized his supporters to help the party be competitive in every race. Dean believes the DNC needs to be a truly national party and as chair he will never concede a single voter, much less a single state.

Chris Turek,
Belleville

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

Letters must be signed and a phone number included only for verification of the writer's identity. Addresses and phone numbers will be kept confidential.



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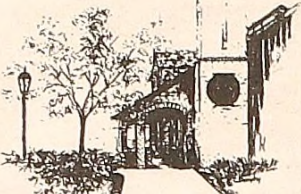
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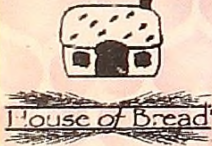
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SPORTS

Canton finds consistency, win 2

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Any time there is a rivalry game it's sure to be close and exciting – especially when the rival teams are just on the other side of campus.

That was the case in the Western Lakes match up between the Canton Chiefs and the Plymouth Wildcats on Friday night. Canton had a tough go at things in the third quarter, but managed to hang on and prevail, 55-44.

The teams were equal in the opening quarter where it ended knotted at 9. However, things tilted in Canton's favor when they went on a 13-4 run in the first five minutes of the second frame. The run ended when Plymouth's Jim Wilbur hit a freebie to make it a 22-13 game.

Andy Cortellini extended Canton's lead when he nailed a three and then David Calille extended the lead further when he hit two from the line and a double. Josh Le Duc hit a free throw to close out the half, 29-16. Callile scored eight in the quarter.

The third quarter proved to be a different ball game for both sides.

Canton came out flat and mustered up just one basket from

Jason Houdek and a free throw from Calille – and that would be it.

Plymouth took advantage of the lethargic Canton offense, which turned the ball over six possessions in a row, and went on a 12-1 run. Plymouth's DJ Coleman hit back-to-back doubles and knotted the game at 30 with about 1:58 left in the quarter. Houdek it for two and put Canton back on top, but a foul at the buzzer sent Wilbur to the line where he split the pair and made it a one-point game, 32-31, at the start of the fourth.

Canton got back on track in the final period – led by two seniors, Cortellini and Calille, who combined for 18 – nine each – of the team's 23 fourth-quarter points.

Canton went on a 10-2 run in the first three minutes of the session and extended their lead to 42-33 with back-to-back doubles from Callile. Plymouth battled but Cortellini and Callie continued to lob in doubles to put the game away, 55-44.

"We just came out flat in the third quarter," said Canton Coach Charlie Paye. "I thought the droughts were over but I guess not. Calille and Cortellini really stepped up big in the fourth.

"They tried to press us a little bit, but I think Cortellini got

through it," he added about the second-quarter run. "I think they went cold a little bit, too. But I have to give Plymouth credit; they didn't quit."

Callile led the team with 20. Cortellini finished with 16 points and four assists and was perfect, 5-for-5 from the line. Plymouth limited Kevin Thornton to nine points, but he grabbed 11 boards and blocked five shots. Andre Bridges nabbed nine rebounds.

DJ Coleman scored 16 for Plymouth.

Canton 64, Northern 45

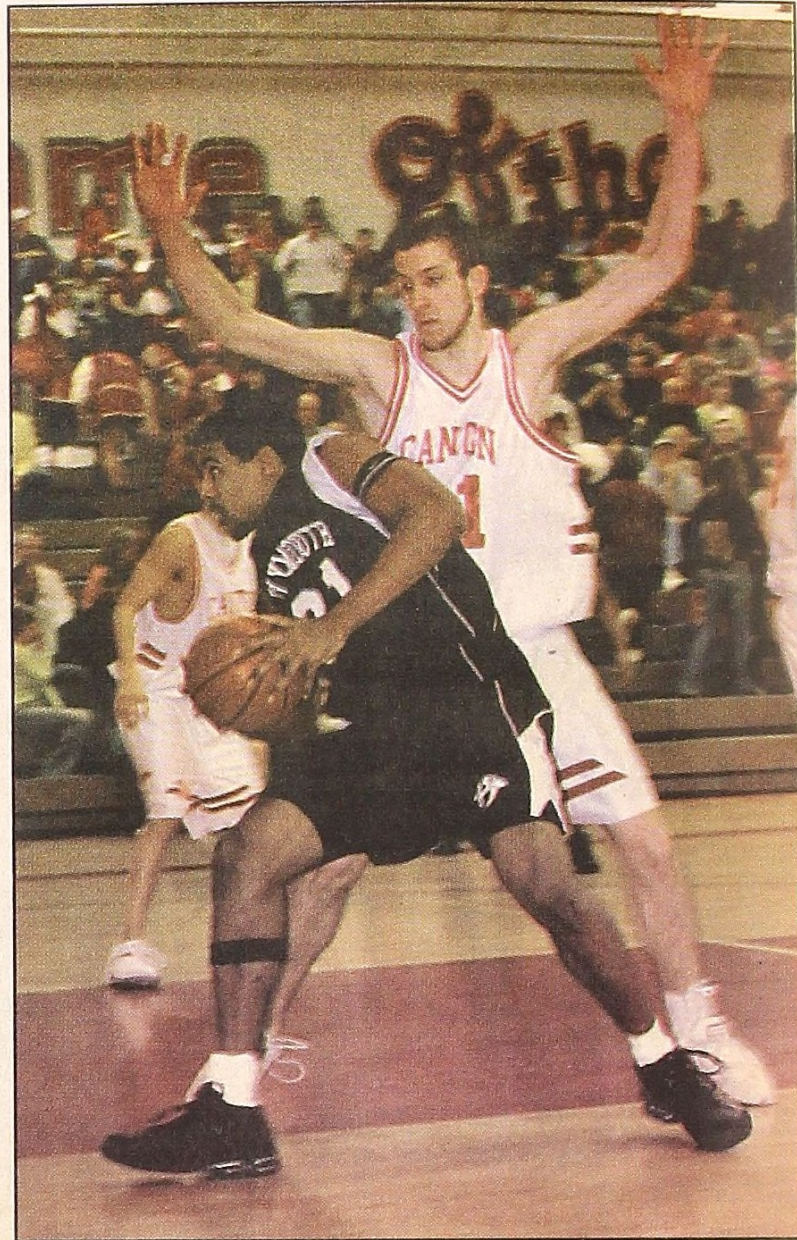
Canton had what was probably their most consistent game when they defeated Walled Lake Northern 64-45 last Tuesday.

Canton went on top 31-17 at halftime and outscored Northern 33-28 in the second half to triumph.

"Our shooting was a heck of a lot better, more consistent," Paye said. "We had four solid quarters and didn't go into any droughts."

Callile led all scores with 16 and Thornton added 12 with six rebounds. Bridges stepped in for a sick Cortellini and knocked down 11 and secured five rebounds.

The Chiefs head across campus for another rivalry match up against neighboring Salem tomorrow night while Plymouth hosts Walled Lake Western.



Canton's 6-foot-8 center, Kevin Thornton, attempts to stop Plymouth's Josh Le Duc in the teams' meeting Friday night. Canton overcame a lethargic third quarter for a 55-44 victory.

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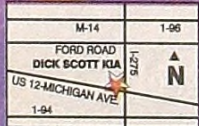
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Rouge, Pioneer, Robichaud no match for Tigers

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

After a devastating loss to the Romulus Eagles the previous week, the Belleville Tigers pulled together and pulled out three impressive and much needed wins last week.

"It was good from the standpoint of three wins and recovering from the Romulus game," said Belleville Coach Mike Krogel, "but we have to play a lot of different kids and that's always good."

Their latest victory was a 75-49 romp over River Rouge on Friday night in the Belleville High School gymnasium.

"We jumped ahead to a 14-0 lead in the first three minutes and the made it 14-6 at one point, but then we just controlled from there," Krogel said.

Belleville finished out the first quarter of

play with a 17-6 advantage. Their momentum carried over to the second frame, where they outscored Rouge 23-10 for a commanding 40-16 lead at the halfway mark.

Rouge scored 14 in the third but the Tigers still carried a 21-point lead, 51-30, at the end of the session. Rouge improved on offense in the final quarter and scored 19 against Belleville's bench. The tigers' back-ups scored 16 for the 77-49 victory.

Belleville's standout junior forward Leon Freeman was two assists away from a triple-double. He had eight, scored 19 points and nabbed 10 rebounds. Senior guard Josh Samarco added 12, while Tommie Clark was close to a double-double with 10 points and eight rebounds. Newcomer D'Marcus Boone added eight and Isaac Kindell and Carlos Clark each hit for seven in the team effort.

Jonathan Moore scored 13 for Rouge.

Last Wednesday, the Tigers had a make-

up game against the Ann Arbor Pioneers, which was originally scheduled for Jan. 11 but cancelled due to inclement weather.

It started out rough for Belleville but they squeaked out a 56-52 victory.

"We battled back and forth in the first half and came out strong in the third to take the lead," Krogel said. "In the fourth we hit 10 of 12 free throws, which ended up being the difference in the game."

Ann Arbor shot ahead to an early 12-9 lead after one period of play. Belleville kept it close in the second but the Pioneers outscored them by one, 17-16, for a four-point lead at the half.

Krogel and the gang came out of the locker room a different team. They pulled ahead of Ann Arbor, 41-38, by the end of the third frame and hung on in the fourth for the victory. Anre Partee was 4-for-6 and Freeman, Samarco and Kindell were

all 2-for-2 from the line down the stretch to help put the game away, Krogel said.

Belleville's scoring was evenly spread out. Freeman and Clark each scored nine and Kindell eight while Anre Partee, Donaldson and Carlos Clark all added six.

Tigers 69, Bulldogs 41

In Belleville's first game after the Romulus fiasco, they defeated the Robichaud Bulldogs, 69-41, last Tuesday.

Samarco led the team with 17 points, which included five triples. Tommie Clark added 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds and Carlos Clark hit for 10. Freeman was solid with six points, six rebounds and five assists.

Belleville heads to Ypsilanti tomorrow night for the Mega rematch. The Tigers overcame the Braves, 66-51, in their first meeting this season.

Canton wrestlers roll Western, 55-12, set school record

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Canton grapplers set a new school record with the most wins in a single season when they defeated Walled Lake Western 55-12 last Thursday.

"It was exciting to the kids," said Canton Coach Casey Randolph. "It really shows how hard they've worked. Breaking the record was one of the goals for this year and it was exciting for them to do that."

The meet started with the 103-weight class, where Canton's Mike Haar - in his first varsity match - defeated Western's four-year starter Andrew Rudzki, 9-3.

Sam Santilli pinned David Johnston in

1:56 in the 112 class and 125-pounder Pete Bonneau pinned his opponent Justin Neal in 2:39.

Jay Fleischmann won his 119-pound bout, 10-3, against Western's Nick Zilan while John McCue, at 130, defeated Eric Kitada, 10-0.

Ryan Webb was solid after last week's loss, when he pinned Elvis Vushaj in 3:38 in the 140-pound weight class. Canton's 145-pounder, Konrad Konsitzke, pinned Jake Birmingham in 3:30.

Marwan Faraj won on a 9-3 decision against George Hajal at 160 pounds. Pat McWhirter, at 171, pinned Sam Prencip in 5:07 while 189-pounder PJ Caram pinned his opponent Mike Skiver in 2:48.

Heavyweight Donnie Laramie closed

out the meet when he pinned Sean Beauregade in 1:05.

On Saturday, the Chiefs rolled to a fourth-place finish at a 16-team tournament in Battle Creek.

The team was in the run for second place until the final rounds when they dropped to fourth place, according to Randolph.

He said they did it without four of their starters: Matt Sweda, Nick Poole, Caram and Fleischmann.

The highlight of the tournament was Webb (140), who defeated the previously undefeated and last year's state runner up Nick Goodrich from Union City, 5-0.

"It was probably the toughest division of the tournament and Webb completely

dominated it," Randolph said. "He controlled the entire match."

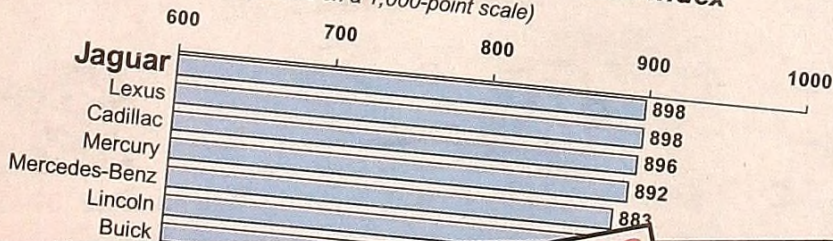
Sam Santilli, at 112, and Bonnell (215) were pleasant surprises, Randolph said. They both won in overtime to win third place in their respective divisions.

On the other hand Konsitzke (140) and Phillips (130), both favorites to win their divisions suffered early losses which they couldn't comeback from, according to Randolph. Konsitzke finished fourth and Phillips fifth.

Other Canton wrestlers to place were: Bonneau (125) and Freitag (145) placed sixth; Ryan Schnettler (103), Faraj (152), McWhirter (171), Keil Price (189) and Laramie (heavyweight) placed seventh; and Alex Amberg (160) placed eighth.

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Canton's Mina Pirzadeh competes on the beam at the 18-team Canton Invitational on Saturday. Canton took third place and set a new school record with a score of 145.025.

Canton tumblers place 3rd, set new school record

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Canton gymnasts set a new school record with a score of 145.025 at their 18-team Canton Invitational on Saturday.

The score was good enough for third place behind gymnastic juggernauts Farmington (147.900) and Livonia Unified (145.625). Salem finished fifth (142.525).

"The third place finish was a very exciting team effort, missing second by only .6," said Canton Coach John Cunningham. "After all five girls on beam – our first event – had no falls, we were on our way."

Alyssa Kelly remains undefeated on vault. At the tournament she scored a 9.550 to capture first place. She also earned high marks on bars (9.325) and on floor (9.325) to earn her a total of 28.200, 17th place, in Division I all-around standings.

Jessica Murray scored a total of 35.725 points for eighth place in the all-around. She scored a 9.175 on the vault, 9.125 on bars and an 8.95 on the beam to help get her there.

Canton's Kara Ahern landed in the top 20 of the all-

around (27.525) with strong performances on beam (9.4) – good for third place – bars (8.8) and on floor (9.325).

Megan Chappo had high marks on the bars (9.200) and beam (9.150) while Kate Staley scored a 9.050 on vault.

The fifth-place Salem team had a stellar performance from Sarah Bugosh who placed 12th in the all-around with a 35.350. To help get there she scored a 9.0 on beam, an 8.7 on vault and an 8.950 on floor.

Salem dominated the Division II competition with three gymnasts in the top 20. Ashley Aquinto led all DII competitors with a 36.500 all-around score. She took third on bars (9.325), fourth on beam (9.125) and fourth on floor (9.350).

Elena Georguiev finished third in all-around with a third-place finish on the beam (9.250), second place on bars (9.425) and a 9.025 on floor.

Brittany Young finished 18th in the all-around with a 33.675. Her high score of the day was an 8.8 on the bars.

Canton will head to Traverse City Central High School on Saturday, Feb. 19 for their next meet. Salem takes on Plymouth next Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Zebra hoops tied for first place in Western Lakes conference

What do you get when you cross a Zebra with a Viking?

You get two 8-1 Western Lakes basketball teams battling it out to see who will have a chance to play for the conference championship.

It took an extra period but the Wayne Memorial Zebras defeated the Walled Lake Central Vikings, 45-42, Friday night in Wayne.

"I knew they would be a hand-

ful," said Wayne Coach Wayne Woodard. "They weren't tied for first place for nothing."

It was a tough game that went back forth the entire way, he said.

Wayne snuck ahead in the first quarter with a 13-9 lead but they only managed two points in the second. They still limited Central to just 10 points but the lackluster offense was damage enough and Central then lead 19-15 at the

half.

"We had a lot of good looks in the second quarter but we just couldn't get them to fall," Woodard said. "At the half we made a point to get to the basket more and that seemed to work."

Against Salem last Tuesday, senior Danny Walsh hit seven triples – part of his team-leading 23 points – in the victory but the outside shots just wouldn't fall

against Central, Woodard said.

Wayne bounced back in the third against Central and regained the lead with a 14-8 quarter. It wasn't good enough as Central worked their way back in the final 8:00. They outscored Wayne 13-11 in order to knot the game at 40 and send it in to overtime.

In the extra period, Wayne proved their resilience and won the period, 5-2.

Sophomore guard Rodrick Walker led with 16 points and Gene Nix added 12.

Now, the Zebras are tied for first place with the John Glenn Rockets.

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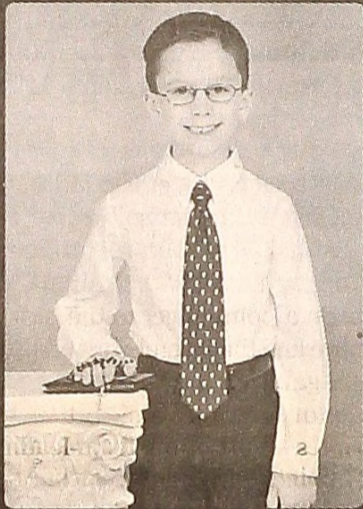
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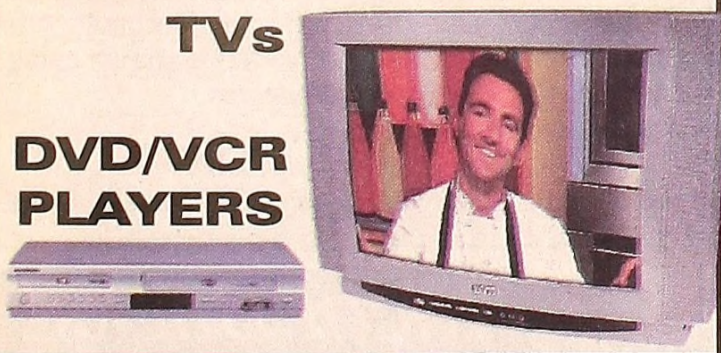
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Whalers flounder in losses to Rangers, Majors

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers couldn't overcome a three-goal first-period deficit Saturday night and fell to the Toronto St. Michael's Majors, 6-3.

The Whalers played a physical game and earned 43 minutes of penalties on 18 infractions. Of the 18 penalties, 12 of them offered a man-advantage for Toronto who took full advantage and scored on three of them – two in the first period.

Toronto started the scoring about midway through the first period when Jeff Larsh knocked a power-play goal by Plymouth's

All-Star goalie Ryan Nie. The Donati brothers, Justin and Tyler, earned the assists on the play.

Then, Tyler Donati, assisted by Dale Good and Justin Donati, notched the second power-play goal about two and half minutes later for a 2-0 lead. This time Mike Knight was serving time for roughing.

With time about to expire in the first period, Darryl Boyce extended Toronto's lead to 3-0.

Despite being shorthanded, the Whalers finally got things going in the second when Jonas Fiedler from John Armstrong put one past Toronto goaltender Wayne Savage. But Toronto scored three more goals on Nie's

replacement Justin Garay. Tyler Haskins, Tyler Donati and Justin Donati respectively scored in a two-minute time span to put the game out of reach, 6-1.

Knight closed out the second period 6-2 with his sixth goal of the season. John Vigilante and John Mitchell notched the assists.

Armstrong, from Mike Looby and Vigilante, scored at about the 4:00 mark of the third for a 6-3 game. But that would be all Plymouth had to offer.

The loss at home dropped Plymouth to a 21-22-5-3 record—good for 50 points—and tied them for first place with the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

Whalers 2, Rangers 5

The Kitchener Rangers' scored five special-team goals Friday night to overpower the Whalers for a 5-2 victory.

The Rangers scored on 4 of 5 power plays and added a short-handed goal for the win.

Matt Lashoff started things out for the Rangers. He scored the first power-play goal at about the 7:00 mark of the first period.

That was all for the first period but Collins evened things with Plymouth's only power-play score at the 7:20 point of the second. He knocked one by Kitchener goalie Dan Turple with help from Sestito and Vaclav Meidl.

The Rangers took the advantage again with a power-play goal

from David Clarkston and a short-handed tally from Craig Voakes. The marks put Kitchener up 3-1.

In the third, Clarkston scored his 25th goal on another power-play opportunity for a 4-1 lead. Sestito gave the Whalers some hope when he scored his first goal of the season at about the 11:20 mark of the third. But the power plays kept coming for the Rangers. With Sestito in the box for slashing, Mike Duco scored the final goal for the 5-2 victory.

The Whalers are at home for two games against Saginaw on Friday and Windsor on Saturday, both scheduled for 7:30 p.m., before heading to Saginaw for a 2 p.m. match up on Sunday.

Northville Mustang basketball overcomes Salem, ends 5-game slide

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Northville Mustangs put an end to a five-game skid when they had home-court advantage against the struggling Salem Rocks on Friday night.

The 52-34 win was due to a mix of outside shooting and a revamped defense, according to Northville Coach Darrel Schumacher.

"We've been working on being a little more aggressive on defense," he said. "We caused enough turnovers to get ahead early."

On offense, their shooting

came together. Northville jumped to a quick 6-2 lead but Northern crept back to within two, 6-4. The Mustangs righted themselves and took off on a 12-4 run to finish out the first quarter with an 18-8 lead.

At one point Mike Jameson and Chris Lorente hit three triples in a row – Lorente two and Jameson one, according to Schumacher.

He said they kept the pressure on in the second and held Salem to four points while they scored another 15 for a 33-12 halftime lead. However, both teams struggled to find the basket after the break. Each side only scored eight on their way to a 41-20 game.

The 21-point lead allowed Schumacher to put bench players in during the fourth quarter. Salem managed 14 points in the last eight minutes, but they still couldn't overcome the deficit. Northville's bench scored 11 for a 52-34 victory.

The substitutions allowed players such as Dave Van Horn, who was also crowned Winter Fest King, extra playing time. He scored six points, including a "fall-away, can't-believe-it shot," Schumacher said. Brad Birdsall also scored his first points of the season.

Lorente led all scorers with 16 and sophomore Alvin Storrs hit

for 12.

Mustangs 55, Wildcats 61 2(OT)

It took the Plymouth Wildcats two overtime periods to get by the 'Stangs, 61-55, last Tuesday night in Plymouth.

Northville couldn't handle Plymouth's pressure and turned the ball over 29 times during the course of the game, according to Schumacher.

Northville was ahead, 15-8, after one period of play but Plymouth stormed back in the second and outscored the Mustangs 14-7.

Northville bounced back in the second half with 12 points and held the 'Cats to just four. It was

enough for an eight-point lead, 34-26, at the end of three frames. However, the 'Cats outscored Northville 19-11 for a 45-45 tie at the end of regulation.

Both teams scored four in the first extra period, which hurled the game into a second overtime. There, late fouls by Northville and made free throws by Plymouth vaulted the 'Cats to a 61-55 win.

Lorente lead Northville with 23 points, which included three triples and five doubles. J.D. Gerblich scored 17 points.

DJ Coleman scored 20 for Plymouth.

Northville will host Churchill tomorrow night.



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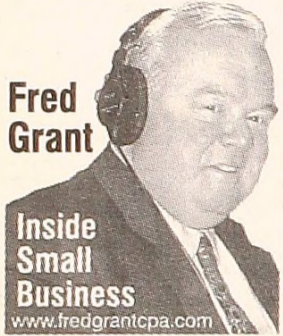
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Cell Phones: Business or Pleasure?



Fred Grant

Inside Small Business
www.fredgrantcpa.com

Americans love their gadgets. And the more features we can combine into one device the better. Cell phones, once used only for talking, now serve as appointment trackers, digital cameras, and web browsers. But combining the business and personal use of cell phones is as hard as ever if you are seeking a tax

write-off.

Self-employed cell phone users often view their mobile phones as just another piece of business equipment. But the IRS sees things differently. Because cell phones, like computers and cars, can provide significant personal entertainment and pleasure, usage charges can be deducted only when the business use is formally documented. This is where many taxpayers get disconnected.

Proper documentation means keeping track of the cost, time, and business purpose of each call. The purpose should include what association the other party had with your business. Daunting as this may sound, your monthly statement might answer some of

these questions automatically if itemized. But by itself the monthly statement will not be sufficient to allow a tax deduction for business calls. All four points must be covered.

If your cell phone company charges a flat monthly fee, you must go even one step further. You must figure the percentage of calls made for business reasons and apply it to the monthly fee to calculate the deduction.

What about the cost of the phone itself? If the business usage is more than 50%, the

business portion of the phone's cost can be deducted in the year of purchase under Section 179. Otherwise, you are looking at writing off the business portion of the cost of the phone over ten years.

Business expenses can be tricky. Before you go "roaming" for a new phone, take a minute to set up a record-keeping system that will give you all the tax deductions to which you're entitled.

For more information call Fred @ 734-455-1040

Listen to Fred Grant's radio show
"Inside Small Business" every weekend on
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Brian Mell, Financial Consultant
DFCU Financial
Canton Branch, through
CUSO Financial Services, L.P.

Financially SPEAKING

Q - When should I start planning for financial independence?

A - It's never too early to start saving and investing for retirement. The sooner you start, the more money you may have when you retire. On the other hand, if you wait too long, you may have to postpone retirement until enough money has been saved. Take this example* of a 25-year-old and a 40-year-old who both begin contributing the maximum amount to an IRA and earn the same rate of return with the goal of retiring at 65. With an additional 15 years of investing, the 25-year-old would have accumulated \$1,218,709 and the 40-year-old only \$334,913. This just illustrates that the early bird may retire fatter. All DFCU Financial Partners Financial Consultants through our broker-dealer CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS) are Chartered Retirement Planning Counselors through the College of Financial Planning. They're located at each DFCU Financial branch and have the experience and all the necessary credentials to help you. For a complimentary consultation stop by or call us at 313.336.2700 or toll free at 888.336.2700 outside the local area. Or visit www.dfcufinancial.com.



*Example assumes the individuals contribute \$4,000 to an IRA each year and earn an average of 8% on their investments over the life of the IRA. Figures quoted are for illustrative purposes and are not indicative of past or future results for any specific investment.

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Understanding How BONDS Work

Bonds can satisfy a variety of investment needs, for instance, providing additional income and diversification in your portfolio. But do you know what you are buying when you purchase a bond or a bond mutual fund?

Governments and corporations must raise money to expand or to finance particular projects. These organizations sell bonds as a method of borrowing money. When you invest in a bond, you are lending money to its issuer. The bond is issued for a fixed period of time (maturity date) that can range from 13 weeks to 30 years. The issuer will make fixed-interest payments to you over the life of the bond, and will pay you the face value of the bond when it matures.

There are several types of bonds on the market. The most common are as follows:

- **U.S. Treasury bonds** The federal government sells bonds to finance its debt. They are backed by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. government and are therefore regarded as the most conservative investments available.
- **Municipal bonds** State and local governments might use the funds for the construction of schools, roads, and land conservation. The interest from municipal bonds is usually exempt from federal and state income tax. This tax-free status should be taken into consideration when comparing municipals to taxable investments.
- **GSE Government-sponsored enterprise securities** are sold by government agencies like Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae. This money is used to fund loans for special borrowers such as farmers, homebuyers, and students.
- **Corporate bonds** companies often need money to build or improve facilities, pay off old debt, to acquire other firms, or for other expansion purposes. Interest from corporate bonds is taxable at the state and federal levels. Corporate bonds usually pay higher interest rates than government bonds because there is a chance that the company could default on the bond. High-yield bonds, also called junk bonds, are corporate bonds that are issued by companies with below-investment-grade credit ratings.

If low interest rates have your income down, bonds could help you increase your cash flow. If you would like to know which type of bonds would be best for your situation, please call curt @ (734) 844-3400.



Curt Whipple
C. Curtis and Associates, Inc.

Covering Your Assets Part IV

We've discussed different sources of down payment money and what lenders require to verify these funds. 401K or retirement accounts are sometimes used for down payment or as a source for reserves. Typically your most recent account statement will be satisfactory. However because of the nature of these funds you should keep some things in mind.

If you are using these accounts for your down payment some plans allow you to 'cash out' a portion and other types allow you to borrow against it. Do keep copies of all the paperwork concerning the transaction. Include a copy of the check and the deposit receipt.

If you are borrowing against your 401K some lenders will include this as an additional debt. Though this may seem silly, since it is your own money, their view is that it is a monthly obligation. If you are tight on your qualifying ratios this could be an important consideration. It may affect whether you choose to 'cash out' or borrow.

Also if considering using a 401k or retirement account for down payment it is a good idea to consult with your financial planner or counselor to see if this is indeed the best choice for you considering your saving, investment and retirement goals. Extra thought should be given to using 401K or retirement accounts for down payments. Because there is a long term cost for doing so. And that is the cost of lost opportunity. That cost should be carefully weighed.



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BUSINESS

What's for dinner? New Canton business prepares ready made cook-at-home meals

John Counts
Staff Writer

Theresa Lewis and Sarah Williams want to keep families away from fast-food drive-thru windows. They know this is not an easy task because cooking can be such a hassle. Who's got time to shop for, prepare and clean up after a meal?

These are some of the steps the two are trying to eliminate at their new restaurant in Canton Township. Dinner Thyme opened earlier this month at 7253 Canton Center Road offering a new way for families to get dinner on the table.

Dinner Thyme is not exactly a traditional restaurant. There are no actual meals served at the location. Instead, the raw ingredients are prepared and people come to sessions, pick up the food, a copy of the recipe, and go home to cook the meal themselves.

"This would take someone a whole day and you'd be just a mess at the end of it," Williams said.

Lewis and Williams said they think the process will help those pressed for time.

"Our key customers will be working moms who don't have time to cook. You can do away with the shopping, preparation and clean-up," Lewis said.

Williams said she read about a similar place while traveling in Nebraska. She and Lewis worked for the same pharmaceutical sales firm, but when Williams returned to Michigan, they decided to do something different. Lewis' family had been in the restaurant business before, and Williams had always liked cooking, so they decided to give the concept a shot.

"It was nice to be able to start something from scratch. It was something that really suited our lives," Lewis said.

While neither hails from Canton, they thought it was the best place for their new venture.

"It's very centrally located with a lot of families. We felt it was a great place to start," Williams said.

Dinner Thyme offers a monthly menu that people can access online at www.dinnerthymeonline.com. Customers choose either 12 meals for a regular two-hour session or six meals for an hour session. Sessions are scheduled



Sarah Williams and Theresa Lewis hope to make dinnertime a little bit easier for busy families without a lot of time to cook.

for certain times when a group of customers can come in to get all of their meals.

Lewis and Williams said the sessions are also turning into social gatherings. They also do

baby showers, office parties, church gatherings and book club meetings. This month, the menu includes BBQ Chicken Pizza, Chicken Artichoke Pasta Rolls and Jambalaya.

For those who still don't have enough time, Dinner Thyme also offers carry-outs and deliveries. For more information, go to the website www.dinnerthymeonline.com, or call (734) 414-1744.

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59. Auctions

Notice of Public Sale.
Pursuant to state law, a sale will be held on February 17, 2005 at 1:00 PM on the following units:
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I-14-Jason Todd: Furniture, Boxes, TV, Fishing poles, Exercise gazelle, Tools
F-26-B. Alfred Tavo: Furniture, Boxes, TV, Clocks, Radio, Video cassette recorder/10/31- Patricia Russell: Furniture, Bike, Boxes, Weedeater, Vacuum, Toys

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On February 15, 2005 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:am at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1995 Olds Achieva 4 Dr White
1G3NL55D3SM322990

1995 Plymouth Neon 4 Dr Dk Green
3P3ES47C0ST343940

1993 Ford Ranger Pk Trk Green
1FTCR14U9PPB82689

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1992 Chevy Pick up Truck Black
1GCCS19Z5N2163043

1998 Ford Escort 4 Dr White
1FAFP10P2WW142127

1998 Mercury Tracer 4 Dr Red
1MEFM10P2WW624436

1993 Ford Ranger Pk Trk Green
1FTCR10U9PUB06459

1993 Ford Escort St Wgn Green
1FAPP15J7PW381960

1990 Dodge Caravan St Wgn Blue
1B4FK54R6LX209052

2000 Ford Explorer St Wgn Red
1FMYU70E8YUA12053

1999 Mercury Cougar 2 Dr Blue
1ZWFT61L5X5636691

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

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Some romantic history

Most everyone agrees that holidays like Valentine's Day have become very commercial in modern times. That's not all bad, though, when it comes to flowers and candy. Just about everyone enjoys those two most frequently given Valentine gifts. However, how many of those gifts givers and receivers know the story of the origin of Valentine's Day?

The story has it that in the third century A.D., a young Roman named Valentinus was imprisoned for helping Christian martyrs. Emperor Claudius II sentenced him to death and, while he was awaiting his execution, he befriended and restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. The night before he died, he wrote his friend a farewell message and signed it "From your Valentine."

Valentinus was put to death on the 14th of February.

It was said a pink almond tree – a symbol of love – bloomed near his grave. Since that time,

the word Valentine and the color pink have stood for affection between friends and love between sweethearts.

Early Valentines were often handmade. One example of friendship is the Valentine sent by messenger from Lucy Jane Blount to her friend, Eliza Jane Warner, in 1849. It was constructed on lined school paper (both attended Patchin school in our area) and had a yellow tissue hand holding an intricately woven heart. Opposite the heart was a circle woven of hair. The message read:

Life would lose the secret pleasure,

*Felt when soul with soul unites,
Other blessings have measures,
Friendship without bound delights.*

This friendship lasted through growing-up years, marriage and children. The greater community was peopled with families of individuals whose friendships, often celebrated with special Valentines,

spanned generations and contributed to the close-knit values that made this area great in many ways.

Times changed and Valentines changed. Postcard Valentines, lacy cupid-decorated cards, comic Valentines, and small calling card size Valentines have all had their turn. Today, examples of most every type of card can be purchased and sent to express friendship or love through prose, poetry and humor. Children's Valentine's are great expressions of friendship. In their cards, they express a centuries old sentiment immortalized, most certainly unintentionally, by a Roman emperor whose name is not well recognized today.

He unwittingly gave history another man's name and values to celebrate.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Finding History
by Valerie Latzman

ANNIVERSARY

Frank and Janet Shaffer

Mr. And Mrs. Franklin E. Shaffer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 22 with a family dinner at Mama Mia's in Livonia. Their family has also planned a trip for all to Las Vegas in the spring.

Frank and Janet (Burack) Shaffer were long-time residents of Redford, who now reside in Grayling. He grew up in Garden City and she lived in Wayne before they were married.

The couple is the parents of five children including Frank Jr. (Linda), Ron (Brenda) and Kevin (Lori), all of Livonia. Another son, Bill (Kathie) lives in Brighton and their daughter Susan (Blake) lives in South Lyon. They are also the grandparents of 13 and great-grandparents of five.

Nor retired, Frank Shaffer was an accomplished plasterer and worked on many landmark facilities including the Penguin House at the Detroit Zoo as well as the huge "sphere" at Epcot Center in Florida.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shaffer

While raising her family, Janet Shaffer was involved in the various schools her children attended in the Redford Union School District as well as the sports teams with the Redford Township Junior Athletic Association. She traveled extensively with the band and is active in several senior citizen groups.

The couple is active with the Eagles Club in Grayling. They attend a variety of events at the club and often volunteer for fundraising activities which benefit various charities.

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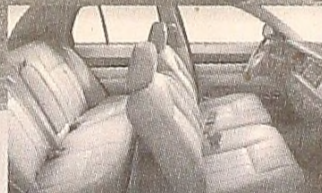


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